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ORIGIN ARA-15

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DRAFTED BY ARA:RBRUCE

APPROVED BY ARA:JBUSHNELL

S/S-O:RCASTRODALE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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O 231641Z NOV 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO IMMEDIATE

CINCSOUTHCOM QUARRY HTS CZ IMMEDIATE

CINGMAC SCOTT AFB IL IMMEDIATE

USREDCOM/RCJ2 MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

USCINCARRED FT MCPHERSON GA IMMEDIATE

CDR 18TH AIRBORNE CORPS FT BRAGG NC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE/'2 IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 296714

LONDON FOR MICHAEL FINLEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, OREP (RYAN, LEO), GY

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT NO. 16

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REFERENCE: STATE 296525 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE FIRST C-141 CARRYING THE REMAINS OF FORTY VICTIMS OF THE JONESTOWN TRAGEDY ARRIVED AT DOVER AIR FORCE BASE AT 0600 EST. THIRTY-SEVEN BODIES ARE UNIDENTIFIED; OF THE THREE OTHERS, ONE IS THAT OF THE REV. JONES' ADOPTED SON, JIMMY.

2. REMOVAL OF DEAD FROM JONESTOWN TO GEORGETOWN BEGAN AGAIN THIS MORNING AT 0600 EST. THE NINE HELICOPTER SORTIES SCHEDULED FOR TODAY ARE EXPECTED TO BRING 162 BODIES TO GEORGETOWN. THE NEXT FLIGHT TO DOVER CARRYING EIGHTY BODIES IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART GEORGETOWN AT 1500 EST. THE COMMANDER OF THE US TASK FORCE IN GUYANA HAS INDICATED THE OPERATION WILL BE COMPLETED TOMORROW, NOVEMBER 24.

3. ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY SEVEN TRANSFER CASES ARE IN GEORGETOWN; 138 MORE WILL ARRIVE TODAY. THE REMAINDER NEEDED WILL BE RETURNED FROM DOVER AND REUSED.

4. NO FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO IDENTIFY BODIES ARE BEING MADE IN GUYANA. AN SCS REPRESENTATIVE AND AN FBI DISASTER

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SQUAD ARE IN DOVER TO AID MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS. IN INSPECTING THE JONESTOWN SETTLEMENT, AN EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER COUNTED ONLY 600 SINGLE BEDS, AN INDICATION THAT EARLIER ESTIMATES OF A THOUSAND OR MORE RESIDENTS OF JONESTOWN WERE PROBABLY EXAGGERATED. 5. THE EMBASSY REPORTS THAT SOME OF THE SURVIVORS IN GEORGETOWN ARE BEGINNING TO AGITATE FOR RETURN TO THE U.S. HOWEVER, GUYANESE AUTHORITIES APPARENTLY WILL NOT BE PREPARED TO PERMIT ANY DEPARTURES UNTIL TOMORROW, NOVEMBER 24 AT THE EARLIEST.

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6. IT IS EXPECTED THE SURVIVORS WILL PROBABLY BE RELEASED IN TWO GROUPS. THE FIRST WILL BE COMPOSED OF 24 BEGIN QUOTE NON-PROBLEM END QUOTE REFUGEES PLUS SOME VERY ELDERLY MEMBERS OF THE SECOND GROUP. THIS SECOND GROUP IS MADE UP OF PEOPLES TEMPLE MEMBERS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE GOG. VANCE

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